

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BROMSGROVE



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R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the Year 1956



BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1956

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Medical Officer of Health	E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Chief Public Health Inspector	P. P. CHAMINGS, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Additional Public Health Inspector	R. F. ROBINS, M.A.P.H.I., (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Assistant Public Health Inspector	K. J. SMITH.
Clerk	MISS J. E. BUTLER (to 13.8.56). MRS. V. M. GARRATT (from 13.8.56)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Report on the state of the Public Health in the Rural District of Bromsgrove and the work carried out by your Health Department during the year 1956.

Dr. E. T. Shennan held the post of Medical Officer of Health at the time and I am sure he would wish me to express his appreciation of the work done by Mr. Chamings, the Public Health Inspector, and staff of the Health Department and also of the assistance and co-operation of Officers and staffs of other departments.

The estimated population increased to 31,330, an increase of 1,310 over the previous year. There was also an increase in the number of inhabited houses from 9,078 in 1955 to 9,221 in 1956 giving a small increase of persons per inhabited house from 3.29 to 3.40. There were still, however, 767 applicants on the Council's Housing List, and it is hoped that the unsatisfactory conditions in which some of them continue to live will be relieved in the near future.

There was an appreciable increase in the birth rate to 17.78 while the death rate of 9.62 maintained the average during the previous two years. The infant and neonatal mortality rates were further reduced to 14.26 and 10.75 respectively.

Among the major causes of death there was again an increase in those from malignant disease, especially of the lung and bronchus.

Notifications of infectious disease showed a considerable decrease, mainly due to the lower incidence of measles. It is gratifying to note that there was no case of poliomyelitis.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. PHILLIPS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres 45,610

Registrar General's estimate of Mid 1956 - 31,380
resident population Mid 1955 - 30,070

(Census, 1951 - 28,172) Mid 1947 - 25,230

Mid 1937 - 19,620

Number of inhabited houses End of 1956 - 9,221

End of 1955 - 9,078

End of 1947 - 7,798

End of 1937 - 6,645

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1956 £329,132

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £1,330

Estimated

POPULATION BY PARISHES

									1939	1956
Alvechurch	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,236	5,090
Belbroughton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,676	2,790
Bentley Pauncefoot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	344	340
Beoley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	770	900
Clent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,943	2,170
Cofton Hackett	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,736	4,760
Dodford-with-Grafton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	513	600
Frankley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	184	180
Hagley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,233	2,860
Hunnington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	543	580
Romsley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,070	1,020
Stoke Prior	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,130	2,610
Tutnall and Cobley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	697	810
Wythall	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,482	6,670
TOTALS									24,557	31,380

VITAL STATISTICS (1955 figures in brackets).

LIVE BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	286 (180)	252 (201)	538 (381)
Illegitimate	13 (10)	7 (12)	20 (22)
	<u>299 (190)</u>	<u>259 (213)</u>	<u>558 (403)</u>

<u>Birth Rate.</u> (Births per 1,000 population)						
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1956 - Eng. Wales</u>	
Crude	17.78	13.40	13.99	14.1	15.7	(15.0)
Comparability Factor	1.01	1.04	1.04			
Standardised	17.95	13.93	14.54			

There was a considerable increase in the number of births. The standardised birth rate of 17.95 was above that of the whole country of 15.7.

Illegitimacy Rate. (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births).

<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1937</u>
35.8	54.9	36.4	32.0

STILL BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	9	3	12 (9)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (1)
	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12 (10)</u>

Still-birth Rate. (Still births per 1,000 total live and still births).

<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1956 - Eng. Wales</u>	
21.0	24.4	21.4	38.1	23.0	(23.1)

The number of still births was increased.

<u>DEATHS</u>	M.	F.	Total
	147 (148)	155 (135)	302 (283)

<u>Death Rate.</u> (Deaths per 1,000 population)						
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1956 - Eng. Wales</u>	
Crude	9.62	9.40	9.84	11.1	11.7	(11.7)
Comparability Factor	1.17	1.03	1.03			
Standardised	11.25	9.68	10.13		11.7	(11.7)

Major Causes of Deaths (by percentages)

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
1. Disease of the Circulatory System	53.0%	53.7%	49.1%
2. Malignant Diseases (all forms)	18.8%	16.0%	15.2%
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	10.9%	9.9%	12.5%
4. Accidents	2.6%	4.6%	3.5%
5. Tuberculosis (all forms)	2.0%	1.8%	1.8%

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Maternal Mortality (Maternal Deaths per 1,000 total live and still-births)

1956	1955	1954	1937	1956 England and Wales
Nil	Nil	2.38	Nil	0.56 (0.64)

I have to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year.

INFANT AND NEONATAL DEATHS.

Infant deaths (under 1 year of age).

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	3	5	8 (7)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (1)
	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8 (8)</u>

Neonatal deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

Legitimate	3	3	6 (6)
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6 (6)</u>

Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1956 - Eng. and Wales</u>
Deaths of Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.87	18.37	22.73	-
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	45.45	133.33	-
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 total live births	10.75	14.88	14.60	16.9
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 total live births	14.26	19.85	26.76	23.8

Causes of Infant Deaths

Congenital Malformation	3 (2 Neonatal)
Prematurity	2 (Neonatal)
Asphyxia	2 (1 Neonatal)
Haemorrhagic Disease	1 (Neonatal)

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT

1956

Causes of Death		M.	F.	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	-	6	.19
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	1	1	.03
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	8	15	.47
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	1	13	.41
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4	.12
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2	.06
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	10	21	.66
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2	.06
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	32	47	1.49
18.	Coronary disease, angina	25	18	43	1.37
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	9	12	.38
20.	Other heart disease	17	29	46	1.46
21.	Other circulatory disease	8	4	12	.38
22.	Influenza	1	1	2	.06
23.	Pneumonia	6	6	12	.38
24.	Bronchitis	9	7	16	.51
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	3	.09
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3	.09
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1	.03
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2	.06
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	.03
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformation	1	1	2	.06
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	16	25	.79
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	-	5	.15
34.	All other accidents	1	2	3	.09
35.	Suicide	2	1	3	.09
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		147	155	302	9.62

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council continued to administer the several ante-natal, child welfare, school immunisation, dental and specialist clinics where much valuable work is done towards the preservation of health of the community and the prevention of disease. The help given at Infant Welfare Clinics by voluntary workers was very much appreciated by the Medical and Nursing Staffs.

The Health Visiting, Home Nursing and Midwifery Services, provided by the County Council, supported by the Home Help Service arranged by the W.V.S. and Loan of Nursing Requisites Scheme managed by the Red Cross, continued to provide useful domiciliary help.

(a) Hospital Services

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district:-

Infectious Disease	Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham
Tuberculosis	Knightwick Sanatorium Hayley Green Sanatorium, Halesowen
Maternity	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport The Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Birmingham
Children's Disease	Children's Hospital, Birmingham
Venereal Disease	General Hospital, Birmingham Royal Infirmary, Worcester
Mental Illness	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern
Chest Surgery	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove
General	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital Smallwood Hospital, Redditch The General Hospital, Birmingham
Aged Chronic Sick	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove

(b) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester. Analysis of water etc., was carried out by the County Laboratory at Worcester. The Health Department is indebted to the directors of those laboratories for their ready assistance and co-operation.

Figures of immunisation and vaccination carried out are found under Section (F).

(c) Ambulance Service.

This was provided by the County Council and the Rural District was serviced from surrounding centres.

(d) Health Education.

The Council contributes to the Central Council for Health Education.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Chief Public Health Inspector, in his report, gives details of the Sanitary Inspections carried out during the year.

2. Water Supply.

Approximately 90% of the houses in the District were supplied with main piped water supplies which were satisfactory in quality and quantity. There were still, however, many dwellings and farm premises with only well water supplies. These latter supplies were to a large extent, unsatisfactory.

Routine sampling of well water supplies for bacteriological and chemical analysis was continued during the year.

Sampling at source of main supplies was done by the water undertakings, but consumer samples were taken from time to time in the District. Specimens of the results of this sampling are given on page 9.

During the year under review, the following extensions of mains were effected:-

The City of Birmingham Water Department	2,363 yards
East Worcestershire Waterworks Company	3,130 yards
Stourbridge and District Water Board	10 yards

Certain of the water supply extension schemes, which had already been approved in principle, were carried out as follows:-

Copyholt Lane, Stoke Prior
The Fordrough, Truemans Heath, Wythall
Packhorse Lane, Wythall.

WATER UNDERTAKINGS

EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATERWORKS
COMPANY
Sampled in AlvechurchCITY OF BIRMINGHAM WATER
DEPARTMENT
Sampled in WythallSTOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT
WATER BOARD
Sampled in BelbroughtonSOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS
COMPANY
Sampled in Romsley

Physical Characters	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	None	None	None	None
Deposit	None	None	None	None
pH	7.6	7.9	7.5	7.7
Chemical Examination				
*Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	None	None	None	None
*Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C.)	300	65	600	120
*Solids in Solution after Ignition	250	50	545	100
*Chlorine expressed as Chloride	24	14	61	16
*Hardness Non-carbonate	70	30	180	20
*Hardness Carbonate	120	10	200	60
*Hardness Total	190	40	380	80
*Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01	0.01	0.01	Trace
*Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace	0.01	0.03	0.01
*Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Trace	Nil
*Nitrate Nitrogen	8.7	0.7	16.4	2.7
*Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	Nil	0.80	0.13	0.13
*Toxic Metals	None detected	None detected	None detected	None detected
Bacteriological Examination				
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Expressed in parts per million

The Supply of Water in the parishes is as follows:-

PARISH	FROM PUBLIC MAINS				From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, etc.
	Direct to House	By means of Standpipe			
	No. of dwelling houses	Population	No. of dwelling houses	Population	
Alvechurch	1,382	4,837	2	7	111
Belbroughton	715	2,502	-	-	105
Bentley Pauncefoot	64	224	-	-	37
Beoley	86	301	-	-	179
Clent	582	2,037	-	-	53
Cofton Hackett	1,386	4,851	-	-	13
Dodford-with-Grafton	114	399	-	-	63
Frankley	28	98	-	-	26
Hagley	823	2,880	-	-	15
Hunnington	172	602	-	-	1
Romsley	253	885	-	-	49
Stoke Prior	712	2,492	-	-	53
Tutnall and Cobley	184	644	-	-	55
Wythall	1,863	6,520	-	-	95
TOTALS	8,364	29,273	2	7	855
					2,987

The outstanding schemes which have been approved in principle by the Ministry are as follows:-

<u>Location</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Madeley Heath and Newtown	Belbroughton
Walton Pool and Vine Lane	Clent
Rumbow	Clent and Romsley
Dark Lane	Wythall
Extension of Banks Green Main	Bentley
Orchard Farm to Gate Hangs Well	Stoke Prior

3. Drainage and Sewerage.

The following are the Sewage Disposal Works situated in the District:-

Alvechurch	Lye Bridge
Clent	Hossill Lane
	Horse Pasture - land irrigation
Cofton Hackett	Kingswood Road - to Birmingham
	Cofton Road
Belbroughton	Weybridge
Hagley	Sweetpool Lane
Hunnington	Illey Lane
Stoke Prior	Stoke Works
	Finstall - Pumping Station to Bromsgrove U.D.C.
Wythall	Houndsfield Lane

The general position with regard to proposed schemes for sewers and sewage disposal at the end of the year was as follows:-

Alvechurch

Hopwood area. Approved in principle by Ministry. Awaiting award of starting date.
 Bordesley area. Approved in principle by Council, but now in abeyance.
 Rowney Green.
 Lye Bridge Works. Extension approved in principle by Council as and when necessary.
 Tanyard Lane (Duplication). Plans prepared but in abeyance due to economic situation.
 Bittell Road (Duplication). - as above.

Belbroughton

Fairfield. Approved in principle by Council. Negotiations with Bromsgrove U.D.C. to be arranged.
 Wildmoor. In abeyance.

Beoley

Holt End. Preliminary report being prepared by Engineers.

Hagley

Sweetpool Lane Works. Approved in principle by Ministry.
Awaiting completion of detailed plans,
quantities, etc.

Hunnington

Illey Lane Works. Engineer to prepare preliminary report on
reconstruction and extension.

Stoke Prior

Henbrook Works. Engineers preparing preliminary report on
extensions.

Wythall

Inkford and Tanners Green. Engineers preparing up-to-date
preliminary report.

Shawbrook area. In abeyance pending clarification re future
development.

Pail Emptying

Pail emptying service was continued at fortnightly intervals
in Stoke Prior and in a portion of Wythall parish.

4. Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal was carried out throughout
the district under the direction of the Surveyor's Department.

A collection was carried out, so far as practicable, once a
fortnight, and disposed by tipping at the following three sites:-
Alvechurch, Belbroughton and Wythall. Seven refuse vehicles
were in use during the year, including four on hire to the
Council by Contractor.

SECTION D

HOUSING

As will be seen from figures under Section A of this report,
the population of the district was increased by 1,310. Although
48 houses were erected by the Council and 452 by private enter-
prise, the general position remained much the same, there still
being 767 applicants on the Council's housing list.

Details of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts are included in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections of food premises were continued during the year, and every effort was made to ensure the clean and safe handling of food-stuffs. Further reference to the subject is made in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

Food Poisoning.

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Disease 1956.

DISEASE	Corrected Notifications	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-
Measles	25	-	-
Whooping Cough	52	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	1	1	-
Dysentery	18	2	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Polio-Encephalitis	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	10	-	12
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
TOTAL	117	3	12

No case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified.

There was one individual case of Food Poisoning reported. The causal organism was not isolated.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:-

Primary Immunisation

Under 5 years old	...	...	...	331	(291)
5 - 14 years old	...	...	...	25	(29)
				<u>356</u>	<u>(320)</u>
Re-inforcing (Booster) injections				272	(307)

The "Immunisation State" of children in the Rural District on 31st December, 1956, was as follows:-

Age at 31/12/56 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1956	1-4 1955-1952	5-9 1951-1947	10-14 1946-1942	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster). A. 1952-1956	37	1,223	1,552	331	3,143
B. 1951 or earlier	-	-	521	1,803	2,324
No. of Births	558	1,675			

Smallpox.

No cases of smallpox were reported.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Revaccinated) during 1956:-

Age at 31/12/56 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1956	1 1955	2-4 1952-1954	5-14 1942-1951	15 and over 1941	Total
Number Vaccinated	276	11	6	3	2	298
Number Revaccinated	-	-	1	-	9	10

The number of babies Vaccinated showed an increase over the previous year. The figure of 276 was 57% of the average number of babies born in the two years 1956-1955 which was 480.

Tuberculosis

Incidence and Mortality during 1956

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	5	-	-	6	-	-	-

Tuberculosis continued to be notified to the district council.

The statutory duty, however, of keeping the Tuberculosis register rested with the County Council.

The District Health Department continued to maintain a list of individuals resident within the district notified as suffering from Tuberculosis, which was kept up-to-date by information received from the County Council Tuberculosis Officer.

Thirteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The total number of registered cases was 169 (200) as follows:-

	M.	F.	Total
Pulmonary	74	73	147
Non-Pulmonary	10	12	22
Total	84	85	169

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report for the year, and whilst it is still in preparation state that none of the major sewerage schemes have been commenced, some progress has been made towards approving the much needed scheme for the Hopwood area.

Whilst most of the district is now served with water mains from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, The City of Birmingham Water Department, The Stourbridge and District Water Board and The South Staffordshire Water Company, there are still a considerable number of houses in areas not yet served, particularly as set out in the Water Supply section of my Report. The City of Birmingham have agreed to extend their mains to serve farms and cottages owned by them in the Parish of Frankley.

The reconditioning of houses under the Housing Act, 1949 has proceeded satisfactorily, seventy applications for grant having been approved during the year under review, bring the total cases to 178 in respect of which grants were approved to the value of over £32,000. Of this number, 121 were completed and certified up to the end of the year.

The high standard of the meat slaughtered in 5 slaughterhouses in operation in the district has been maintained and all of the meat is examined and passed before being sold to the public. This entails evening and week-end visits throughout the year.

The work of applying the Hygiene Regulations to food premises has resulted in many improvements being voluntarily carried out by the Traders without the necessity of recourse to formal action.

Also with the helpful co-operation of the Housing Committee, quite a number of bad cases of people living in sub-standard houses or in overcrowded conditions have been dealt with and appropriate action taken when necessary to deal with the properties under the Housing Act, 1936.

The overall picture is one of steady progress and thanks are due to all who have co-operated to this end.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PEARSON P. CHAMINGS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

COMPLAINTS

A total of 127 complaints were received during the year 1956, all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are the numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Houses inspected	844
Number of inspections and re-inspections of houses ..	2,092
Inspections under Housing Regulations	-
Visits re Complaints and Nuisances	216
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	41
Knacker's Yard	18
Visits re Meat Inspection	588
Milk and Dairies	35
Piggeries	102
Bakehouses	-
Schools	12
Factories and Workshops	120
Outworkers' Premises	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	643
Water Supply	334
Works in Progress	625
Drainage	574
Shops, etc. (re unfit food)	9
Visits to Shops and Food Premises	472
Rodent Control	39
Canal Boats	4
Outside Interviews	796
Verminous Premises	2
Miscellaneous	184
Total number of informal Notices served during the year	123

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- (i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 844
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 2,092
- (ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 -
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose -
- (iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 26

(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	90
2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:-	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	111
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	-
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	-
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in anticipation of Demolition Orders	6
(iii) Number of Undertakings accepted under Section 11	4
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-

(ii) Closing Orders under L.G. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

1

(iii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit -

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding in the district.

It is not possible to supply accurate figures for overcrowding in the district.

General - Housing.

Six sub-standard cottages were demolished as a result of informal action, thus obviating the necessity of issuing Demolition Orders, which were made on 15 other houses.

The 1 Closing Order was made in respect of a house which it was not possible to demolish until adjoining property is dealt with.

Four Undertakings were accepted that houses were not to be used for human habitation until rendered fit to the satisfaction of the Council.

Five houses listed for consideration for demolition were thoroughly repaired, reconstructed and rendered fit.

One hundred and eleven houses were repaired, but only in four cases was it necessary to issue Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, as I believe that better results are invariably obtained by the informal approach.

The Council has pursued an active policy under the Grant sections of the Housing Act, 1949. Applications approved totalled 70, four were rejected and two cases were under consideration at the end of the year. Two approved cases were withdrawn by the applicants.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There were 9 sites licensed under the Public Health Act and 27 individual licences in force during the year.

The total number of Tents, Vans and Sheds in permanent occupation throughout the District was 485 mainly modern trailer caravans.

The demand for this type of accommodation arose mainly from persons not previously resident in the District.

The Camping Club of Great Britain continued to maintain their holiday site at Romsley in a satisfactory manner.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk

As the District was in a "Specified area", all milk sold to the public had to be under one of the authorised Special Designations, and consequently no samples of non-designated milk were taken.

The 27 samples of designated milk submitted for examination complied with the required standard. It will be appreciated that a large percentage of the milk retailed in the District was bottled in other Authorities' areas where it was regularly sampled, and, therefore, only a limited number were taken by my Department.

In addition, 22 samples were taken for biological examination, all of which were negative for M.Tuberculosis.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences (including supplementary licences) were issued during the year:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk:-

Dealers Bottling	2	Distributors	30
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Pasteurised Milk:-

Distributors	35
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Sterilised Milk:-

Distributors	36
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(b) Meat and Other Foods

There were eight licensed Slaughterhouses in the District, but at only five was regular slaughtering carried out. All animals slaughtered were inspected and this entailed some extra work at week-ends and evenings.

Following is a summary of the inspections and condemnations which took place:-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	538	32	123	2,538	765
Number inspected	538	32	123	2,538	765
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46	6	-	4	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	8.5	18.7	-	0.19	0.26
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	22	6	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.09	18.7	-	-	0.39

Routine visits were made to food shops, cafes and public-houses for the inspection of premises and examination of food-stuffs and, in the main, conditions were reasonably satisfactory.

A certain amount of foodstuffs of various kinds were condemned as unfit for human consumption at retail food premises during the year.

(c) Ice Cream

The total number of registrations in force for premises for the manufacture of Ice Cream was two and for retail sale only 109.

One hundred and eight samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination and the results of the samples were as follows:-

Provisional Grade	1 - 104	Satisfactory
	2 -	- Satisfactory
	3 - 4	Unsatisfactory
	4 -	- Unsatisfactory

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

Twenty-three licences to slaughter animals were issued under the above Act during the year.

HOUSE DRAINAGE

Thirty-eight existing houses were connected to the sewer and 23 were drained to cesspool, making a total of 61 for the year. Repairs were carried out to drainage systems at a further 15 properties.

The question of providing sewers to various parts of the District and improving disposal works where necessary was considered by the Council during the year, but it was not possible to commence any of these schemes.

WATER SUPPLY

Four samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and all were satisfactory.

Forty-seven samples of water from private wells and springs were submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination and twenty-eight for bacteriological examination only.

Of these fifty-four were bacteriologically unsatisfactory and twenty chemically unsatisfactory; twenty-seven were chemically satisfactory and twenty-one bacteriologically satisfactory.

Thirty-three existing premises were connected to the water main in the course of 1956.

A total of 5,503 yards of new mains were laid by the various Water Undertakings within the District during the year.

These extensions consisted principally of the schemes for Copyholt Lane, Stoke Prior, Packhorse Lane, Wythall and The Fordrough, Truemans Heath Wythall.

There was still the need to improve supplies to Broome Hill and Bell Heath area of Belbroughton and to provide main water to the considerable number of houses in the district in urgent need of a piped water supply, particularly in the Dark Lane area, Wythall, Portway and Gorcott Hill area, Beoley, Rumbow area, Clent; Vine Lane and Walton Pool, Clent; Madeley Heath, Belbroughton.

DISINFESTATION

Two premises were found to be in need of disinfection.

All the Council refuse tips were periodically treated for flies and crickets where necessary.

RODENT CONTROL

A full-time Rodent Operative is employed. A total of 99 infestations of private houses and 125 at business premises were successfully treated.

During the year the Council continued to provide a free service for the destruction of rats at private dwellings, but in the case of business premises a charge was made as previously.

The service was fully used and in addition a considerable number of visits were made for survey purposes by the Operative.

Twenty-six contracts were made for the treatment of business premises and the income from this source amounted to £151.

Frequent inspections of the refuse tips and sewage works were carried out throughout the year and necessary treatments carried out by the Operative.

Test baiting of the sewers was carried out in August in accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Two slight infestations were discovered and these were treated.

Due to the co-operation of the public, possibly because of the free service, infestations were generally notified in their early stages and were thus only of a minor nature, but it seems essential to continue the service to prevent any large-scale build-up.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No cases occurred during the course of the year where it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial, under the provisions of the above Act, of a person dying within the District.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIAL ACT, 1951

The premises of one firm are registered for the use of filling materials to which this Act applies.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The number of industrial premises is not large and as a result air pollution from factory chimneys did not present a major problem.

Co-operation by the management of the few premises concerning which complaints were occasionally received resulted in these troubles being largely overcome.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PREMISES	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	3	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	81	107	2	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	8	10	-	-
TOTAL	92	120	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted (7)
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	2	-



